

Centro has created a nurturing environment for young Latino students to appreciate their culture and history while also preparing them to participate fully in Kindergarten and elementary school. Tony also served as a board member of the Hispanic Media Association Scholarship Fund and the University of Central Missouri's Cesar E. Chavez Scholarship Committee. As a result of Tony's impassioned fundraising, these scholarships have been able to award thousands of dollars to deserving Latino students pursuing higher education and working towards a brighter future for themselves and their families.

Tony undoubtedly accomplished extraordinary progress for his community during his life, and we in Kansas City celebrate him as a local hero. But when you talked with him, his work would never come up. When Tony would greet people with his infectious smile and attentive ears, he wanted to hear about their lives, their families, and their struggles. If you needed to laugh, he was quick to deliver a joke. If you needed to cry, he would wrap his arm around you and make you remember that you were not going through dark times alone. Whether he was celebrating new life, working through life's problems, or mourning the end of a life, Tony served as a bright light and beacon of hope wherever he was. As friends and family gather to remember how Tony helped them through their lives, that beacon of hope will continue to shine brightly in their memories.

Today, Kansas City's thoughts are with Tony's wife, Mary, his two sons, Anthony Jr. and Aquilino, his daughter, Mary Kay Villegas-Alitz, and his many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as they celebrate Tony's life and remember the moments of compassion and care he gave the world. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Tony's legacy and offering our deepest condolences to his family. As we celebrate the accomplishments of a life well-lived, let us remember how Tony used his God-given gifts to serve others. We may never truly know the full impact he had on our community, but make no mistake: Tony's legacy will live on through every young leader he inspired to continue that everlasting endeavor to promote equality, inclusivity, and opportunity. Put simply, Kansas City is better off today, tomorrow, and for generations to come, because of the time Tony gave us.

RECOGNIZING ELAINE COUTURE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elaine Couture, who has served in the health care sector of this country for over 40 years. She has outstanding professional accomplishments in nursing and has shown dedication to her staff, community, and people in need.

Elaine Suzann Couture was born in Omaha, Nebraska on July 18, 1955, to parents Quentin and Mildred Bohrer. At a young age, Elaine knew that she wanted to be a nurse. She volunteered as a candy striper and went straight

from high school to college at Montana State University-Bozeman in 1973.

Upon graduation, she worked for 10 years at Saint Vincent Hospital in Billings, Montana from 1977 to 1987 first as a bedside nurse and a flight nurse. Her ability to lead others gave her the opportunity to move into management and eventually start a new occupational medicine department. In 1987, she started at Saint Mary Medical Center as the Employee Health Manager. She was quickly promoted to the Director of Quality, and then Chief Nursing Officer.

She left Saint Mary's in 2002 for Sacred Heart, where she served faithfully for nearly a decade. In 2012, she was promoted to the Regional Chief Executive for Providence Health & Services for nearly eight years before she was promoted to Executive Vice President, Chief Executive of Eastern Washington & Western Montana. She oversaw 13 hospitals and over 23,000 medical staff.

Elaine has served the people of our state, region, and country with a strong sense of self, leadership, knowledge, and passion for her work. In addition to her responsibilities for Providence, she served on numerous national and community boards including the Federal Reserve Board, American Hospital Association Rural Task Force, Washington State Hospital Association Board of Directors, Greater Spokane Incorporated Governing Board, Washington State University Advisory Board and Spokane's University District Board.

Anyone who has had the pleasure of knowing and working with Elaine, describes her as nothing but determined, energetic, approachable, and compassionate. In addition to all her professional successes, Elaine kept her priorities in life as God, Family, Word. Throughout her career she has shown dedication and a genuine care for the medical profession and those in it. This is exemplified in her willingness to give back to the next generation of medical professionals by serving as an adjunct professor as Washington State University School of Nursing following the completion of her own B.S. in 1977 and her M.B.A. in 1994 from Liberty University.

Most recently, during the Coronavirus outbreak Elaine has again led with distinction during challenging and uncertain times. She made it a priority to continuously adapt hospital and clinic operations to meet the emergent and changing needs of patients, frontline workers, and the community.

Madam Speaker, for her commitment to health care, her exceptional, engaging manner and for her lasting impact on the lives of people around her, I recognize Elaine Couture.

IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY E. BINARI

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Shirley E. Binari of Huntingdon County for her service in the United States Air Force. Shirley is an outstanding Pennsylvanian, and I am grateful for her service to our nation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and our community.

In Pennsylvania and across the country, our veterans have served and sacrificed for Americans' freedom and our values. They answered the call to serve and fight for us—at a great cost. Truly, our veterans are the best of America.

In Congress, it is my privilege—and my responsibility—to stand up for those who have served our country in uniform, as well as to recognize these brave Americans. As a nation, we are indebted to them. On behalf of the 13th Congressional District, I thank Shirley for her service to our nation and our community.

RECOGNIZING ARMY VETERAN JOHN PAUL CURRAN

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, John Paul Curran and congratulate him on his 105th birthday. A veteran, family man, Beatles fan, and so much more, "Uncle John"—as his family lovingly calls him—has led a remarkable life.

John's story begins on November 11, 1915, in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. He spent his childhood there, enjoying time with his family, attending church, and playing baseball. In 1933, he graduated from Honesdale Catholic High School before he was drafted into the Army nine years later.

On May 18, 1942, John began his service to our nation. It was then that he formed his fondest memories—serving alongside his fellow Americans to serve and protect our country in World War II. He spent three months in basic training in Gadsden, Alabama, before working as a Postal Clerk, Grade T/4 in the Judge Advocates office, and a Rifleman, Grade T/4. As a Postal Clerk, John handled and dispatched classified information and inspected critical Victory Mail. He served in the Rhineland Offensive in Central Europe and went on to receive the Good Conduct Medal and the American Theater Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars.

After he was honorably discharged on January 10, 1946, John returned home to Honesdale, where he worked for General Electric. John's entrepreneurial spirit led him to San Francisco in the 1950s where he was a partner in a small business and managed apartment buildings. After falling ill and receiving lifesaving care at a VA hospital, he moved to Palm Desert in 2003, where he now enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, family, and friends; playing bingo at the Joslyn Center; reading and doing crossword puzzles; and playing the occasional penny slot machine.

It is fitting that John shares his birthday with Veterans Day, a day devoted to recognizing and honoring all those who have sacrificed for our nation.

On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, Happy Birthday, John. And we thank him for his years of service to our nation. As he celebrates this momentous occasion, his story is now recorded in our nation's history and will live on for generations to come.